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USAID KOSOVO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (KPEP)

Registration & Licensing of Architects Best Practices

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION.....	3
DEFINITION OF ARCHITECT	3
ARCHITECT’S RESPONSIBILITIES	3
REGULATION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE PROFESSION.....	3
LICENSING PROCESS BEST PRACTICES	4
2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ARCHITECT LICENSING	5
EDUCATION	5
PRACTICAL TRAINING	5
REGISTRATION EXAMINATION	5
POST-REGISTRATION.....	5
3. TYPICAL ARCHITECTURE LICENSING PROCESS	6
ARCHITECTURE LICENSING PROCESS CASE STUDY: SLOVENIA.....	7
4. THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	9
MODELS OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	9
A. <i>Self-Regulatory Professional Bodies</i>	9
B. <i>Associations or Chambers</i>	10
C. <i>Independent Associations</i>	10
D. <i>Unions or Trade Associations</i>	10
E. <i>Other Organizations</i>	10
F. <i>Mixed Structures</i>	11
RECOMMENDED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN KOSOVO	12
5. GUIDELINES FOR ARCHITECTURE LICENSING LEGISLATION	13
PRACTICE REGULATION VS. TITLE REGISTRATION	13
LICENSING BEST PRACTICES	13
RECOMMENDED STATUTORY LICENSING PROVISIONS	14
GUIDELINES FOR POLICY ON PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.....	16
6. COMPARISON OF ARCHITECTURE LEGISLATIONS	17
7. RECOMMENDED STEPS TO ESTABLISH A LICENSING PROCESS IN KOSOVO	19
8. REFERENCES	20

1. Overview of the Architecture Profession

Definition of Architect

Architects are licensed to plan and design buildings in both public and private domains. In recent times, an architect's influence extends beyond design to participating in and supervising the construction of the buildings. They are responsible not only for the creativity in their designs but also for public safety and thus require deep understanding of building and operational codes.

Considering the responsibility for public safety that architects carry, in all countries they must undergo specialized training and education, and a practicum for practical experience. In fact, laws and regulations of many countries reserve the designation "architect" for persons who are professionally and academically qualified and undergo a verification and registration process.

Architect's Responsibilities

In order to comply with regulations and building codes, architects are required to interact with local and state jurisdictions. Architect's designs may also be subject to planning and zoning laws that dictate, for example, building heights, parking requirements, building material sourcing requirements and historic neighborhood preservation rules.

Architects are often required to certify or provide assurance of construction projects that are based on their designs. This binds the responsibility of the architect to the safety of the people using those facilities.

Regulation and Oversight of the Profession

The significance of the responsibilities associated with the profession requires that individuals belonging to the profession are fully dedicated to standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence. Industry associations typically define the architectural principles of professionalism. The rigorousness of these principles varies widely from country to country or even from state to state within a country. In Kosovo it depends on various specific factors including historical context, size of architect community and the cross-border opportunities to name a few. Architects voluntarily choose to participate or stay out of these associations.

Federal or state legislations typically protect the use of the title "architect" and make it an offence to abuse the title. Legislations set standards including the number of years of education required, the experience required and the examinations that must be passed to qualify to use the "architect" title. Therefore, those intending to use the title are required to "register" or be "licensed" in most countries. The legislations concerned with architect licensing are examined in this report.

Other regulating authorities may affect the profession such as a national accreditation board to accredit universities. In some jurisdictions, only students who have obtained a professional degree from an accredited university are allowed to appear at the national architecture registration examinations. An overview of the different types of regulating authorities and architecture professional organizations are provided in this report.

Licensing Process Best Practices

This document examines the architecture licensing best practices observed in several countries. These practices should be taken in to consideration along with local conditions such as availability of skills, education policies and public needs to establish legislation that is most suitable for the jurisdiction.

The term “licensing” is used interchangeably with “registration” in this report.

2. General Requirements for Architect Licensing

The steps to becoming a licensed architect vary from one country to another. In countries such as the United States, each state has a registration board that oversees the state's licensure laws. Though specifics vary, the common requirements in most jurisdictions to register as an architect are education, practical training and registration examination.¹

Education

Most jurisdictions require that individuals obtain a professional degree from a school accredited by a national accreditation board. The students may earn a B. Arch or M. Arch degree. Often students may pursue undergraduate studies in an unrelated discipline and finally pursue an M. Arch. In some countries, universities only confer an M. Arch degree since B. Arch is insufficient to appear at the national registration exams.

Practical Training

Practical training, or internship, is required before an individual is allowed to appear at the registration examination. It involves a directed and structured activity under the supervision of a licensed architect. The intern may or may not work for the architect directly. The number of years of practical training ranges from 2 to 5 years. This training may be continuous or completed in stages after completion of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In the US, the Intern Development Program (IDP) is a joint program established by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The IDP provides a framework for interns to identify necessary base skills and core-competencies.

Registration Examination

Every applicant wishing to registration as an architect is required to demonstrate an acceptable level of professional knowledge and ability to the relevant national authority. This is done by requiring that all applicants appear at a national registration examination. The exam is typically administered by a national registration board or national institute of architects.

Upon successfully passing the examination, the candidates are registered in a national registrar of architects and are legally allowed to use the "architect" title.

Post-Registration

In some countries, architects are required to pursue continuing professional development as a lifelong learning process. Professional architecture bodies may require their members to devote time (usually at least 35 hours per year) to maintain existing skills, broaden knowledge, and explore new areas. This is increasingly important to keep abreast with new technologies, methods of practice, and changing social and ecological conditions.

¹ American Institute of Architects, <http://www.aia.org/>
Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, <http://www.aaca.org.au/>
Architect Magazine, <http://www.architectmagazine.com>
Netherlands Architecture Institute, <http://en.nai.nl/>
Architects Registration Board-UK (ARB), <http://www.arb.org.uk/>
Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland, <http://www.riai.ie/>

3. Typical Architecture Licensing Process

The steps to obtain and maintain the license in selected countries are given below². The countries were selected to form a diverse base for comparison but also similar to Kosovo in terms of small population size (e.g. Singapore and Ireland). Factors such as recently-developed successful architecture community (e.g. Malaysia) were also considered in making the selection.

STAGES	COUNTRIES					
	USA	UK	Slovenia	Malaysia	Singapore	Ireland
1. Contact the Architects Registration Board (ARB) or similar			•			
a. Candidate must be citizen or permanent resident of jurisdiction				•		
b. Rules vary between jurisdictions (states)	•					
2. Complete initial degree in architecture				•		•
a. University program must be accredited	²	•	•		•	•
b. Must be M. Arch						•
c. Registration board may approve equivalent degree or experience	•			•	•	
3. Fill out the application for the Council Record for internship / practical training, send to ARB and pay registration fee	•	•	•	•	•	•
4. Minimum number of years of internship required	2	1	2	2	2	2
a. Internship must be under licensed architect	•	•	•			•
b. Internship must be done in Training Areas listed in the Architects profession <i>guidelines</i> or IDP	•	•				
c. Portion of internship must be in same jurisdiction as registration				•	•	
d. Applicant keeps track of the number of hours that is spent working	•	•	•	•	•	
e. Every 3 or 4 months, fill out a Training Report, have the employer and mentor sign it and send to ARB.	•	•	•			
f. ARB will verify and provide an update on the status toward completion	•	•	•	•	•	
g. Periodically meet with the mentor to review the training progress and discuss career objectives	•	•	•			
h. Internship longer than three years incur an annual maintenance fee due to the Architects Registration Board (ARB) or similar			•			
5. The applicants proceeds to complete the post-graduate degree to receive a post graduate Degree in Architecture (M. Arch.)		•	•			
6. Minimum period of post-graduate internship experience		1				

² Singapore: <http://www.boa.gov.sg/registration.html>

Malaysia: <http://www.lam.gov.my/examinations.html>; http://www.pam.org.my/career_guidance.asp

Ireland: <http://www.riai.ie/education/architect.html>

Slovenia: <http://www.arce-eu.org/doc/slovenia.pdf>

US: <http://ncarb.org/stateboards/index.html>

7. Each applicant must join the Associations/Chamber/Institute of Architects		•	•	•		
a. Upon completion of the required internship hours, applicant is automatically eligible to take the Architectural Registration Examination ("ARE") or equivalent	•	•	•		•	
b. ARB reviews all material in applicant's Council Record for compliance with the testing eligibility requirements	•	•	•		•	
c. After the applicant passes the exam the applicant must apply for and to receive the license/certification/seal to practice architecture.	•	•	•	•	•	
8. Minimum " Learning Units " of continuing education per year required to maintain the professional membership		•				
9. Minimum " Contact Hours " of continuing education required every two years to maintain the license		•				

Architecture Licensing Process Case Study: Slovenia

Slovenia is a special case since it is a former Yugoslav state that is now part of EU. It is not the perfect model to duplicate but it is worthy of consideration. According to our research, most countries are moving toward international standards³.

Currently, the professional exam and registration for architects is organized by the Architects Association of Slovenia. Each association has the guidelines for examination, manuals and handbooks and they do also provide continuous professional education. The Association operates independently but has close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning throughout the process.

The exam consists of two mandatory portions:

- (1) General and
- (2) Specific/Professional topics depending on the type of license

Exam modules are divided on more than 4 sections and consisted up to 14 subjects. Exams consist of both written and oral components.

Examination Commission

- ❖ Applicants take exams under the supervision of a commission
- ❖ Exam is held by the Architects Association and the commission members are chosen by the association based on the regulation
- ❖ If the applicant passes the exam, the association makes a public announcement. The architects association consists of 6 commissions.
- ❖ The exam is marked with "PASS" or "FAIL".

The Professional Examination

The examination consists of two portions:

1. **General:** Prepared by the Association and divided in to two sections:
 - a. Legislation related to construction, environment and spatial planning etc., and
 - b. Technical regulations/Building codes and procurement legislation and constricting, regulations, technical specifications, management, operation, environment protection, fire protection, safety regulations etc.

³ http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu/AEC_Articles/11_International_Code.lasso;
<http://www.aia.org/practicing/groups/international/uia/AIAP073960>

2. **Specific / Professional:** Prepared by the Association in detail as Professional Examination for specific functions. It tests knowledge of each function in architecture such as: spatial planning, revision, building design, urban planning, town-planning, regional planning, residential design, commercial building design, hospitals, etc.

Continued education is required in order to maintain professional membership. Architects are required to complete 35 hrs of training per year.

4. The Role of Professional Organizations

The architect profession is generally controlled by a governing body that sets standards (e.g. of education, ethical rules, and professional standards to be observed). In some countries, the power to approve architectural designs is reserved to the profession by statute, not to favor members but because such work should be carried out only by persons with requisite education, training, standards and discipline, for the protection of the public. Other institutes and associations are voluntarily established by the architect community for the advancement of architecture, promotion of knowledge and – by ensuring that their members perform to a known standard – protection of the public interest.

The following descriptions are theoretical and based on findings from research by the Construction Specialist. The research was focused on licensing process for architects in the world. In most cases, according to the national education system and cultural environment, architects are licensed in various models and fulfill various functions which differ and it is impossible to identify a model as the ideal approach for all countries and jurisdictions. It is found that various functions can be grouped together in the creation of new professional bodies or in order to help existing organizations improve their services to architects, construction industry and to the public. Different types of organizations or professional bodies may be identified and classified according to their functions, objectives, vision and their independence.

Models of Professional Organizations

A. Self-regulatory Professional Bodies

E.g. Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)

These are architect's organizations most commonly found in Anglo-Saxon countries and in countries strongly influenced by this culture. The governments allow the architect professional communities a significant degree of self regulation. These organizations have developed sustainable processes to manage the profession and these professional bodies are often very old and have acquired considerable authority because of their extensive social scope and the quality of the organization. They maintain standards for examination, continual education and their own criteria for selecting members. In many cases, there is only one such body per country.

The State may delegate control of the regulatory framework of professional practice. Thus, the body may be responsible for maintaining the registration examination process and even protecting the title of architect.

These bodies are often centers of architectural knowledge. They serve as guardians of the culture of architecture, maintain a quality library, monitor education and practical training, and organize continuing professional development. They facilitate cultural development through conferences, seminars, publication of reference documents and initiate architectural research. Their main characteristic is that they freely determine their Statutes and are independent of the regulatory authorities. Their membership is subjected to strict rules both from the point of view of qualifications, license to practice, professional references, and even sponsorship.

B. Associations or Chambers

E.g. Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten (Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultant, Austria)⁴

Associations of architects – sometimes known as chambers – are often private bodies set up by the State through an act or a regulation as non-profit/non-government organization. Such acts or regulations define their object, role, statutes, organization, membership criteria, relationship with the State and their financial regime. They are commonly found in Latin or Germanic countries. Their main objective is the protection of the title of architect. Their role is to protect the public by having architects abide by the rules defined by the State. Generally, they guarantee the architect's qualification, are responsible for conduct and discipline, frequently set down by public law, and are the official partners of the State. Most often they also protect professional practice and sometimes contribute to continuing professional development of architects and take part in the promotion of architecture. They are generally democratically constituted. Their main characteristic is that they originate from the public interest and are subjected to strict legal rules. Membership is compulsory for those wishing to use the title and, depending on the national legislation, to practice.

C. Independent Associations

E.g. Architectural Association, UK

In all countries architects gather to organize and promote their common interests. The vocation of these bodies may be related to the cultural, professional and even humanitarian aspects of the practice of architecture. In most case their resources are raised from contributions. Their main characteristic is that membership is not compulsory and they are only regulated by rules they have freely decided upon in conformity with national laws governing associations.

D. Unions or Trade Associations

E.g. American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Originally, according to the country, the role of architects unions or trade associations was to defend the interests of their members. Membership is voluntary and often entails dedication and militancy. They are the obvious negotiators with the public authorities for everything related to professional practice. Frequently they have extended their area of competence to cover the training of architects, the promotion of architecture, the development of techniques and services for their members. Their main characteristic is that membership is voluntary and they defend the professional interests of architects.

E. Other Organizations

There are also other organizations of architects which may bring members together for wider cultural, humanitarian prospects, particularly at the international level. Examples at the international level are the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA). Examples at the regional level would include the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the Architects' Council of Asia (ARCASIA), Architect's Council of Central and Eastern Europe (ACCEE), the Pan-American Federation of Architects Associations (FPAA), the Union of African Architects (UAA), and Union of Mediterranean Architects (UmAR).

If one of the organizations above is not tasked with accrediting university architecture programs, a separate accreditation board may be formed. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in the United States is such an example.

⁴ <http://www.arching.at/>

F. Mixed Structures

In certain fields such as education, mixed structures have been established which bring together architects Associations, professional bodies and public authorities in order to monitor or accredit schools of architecture. Examples would include the Joint Validation Panel (Royal Institute of British Architects and Architectural Registration Board) in the United Kingdom and the National Architectural Accrediting Board (American Institute of Architects, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards) in the United States of America.

Recommended Professional Organizations in Kosovo

While there are several models of professional bodies, at least two are commonly found in most countries:

1. The primary self-regulatory professional association or chamber; and
2. The licensing (registration) body.

The two professional bodies should protect three main interests:

- ❖ Consumer interest;
- ❖ Public interest; and
- ❖ Professional interest – interests of architects.

The Self-Regulating Professional Association or Chamber

- ❖ **Status:** Self-regulating or established by Charter
- ❖ **Mission:** Advancing architecture; promoting and facilitating the acquisition of knowledge
- ❖ **Main Responsibilities:**
 - Communications/promotion – public, government, clients, members, international and cultural programs, awards and exhibitions
 - Education⁵ - Influencing standards through the architectural curriculum
 - Practice – Influencing standards by helping practitioners, e.g. providing model appointment documents, contracts, etc.
- ❖ **Justification:** Ensuring better communications, education and practice ultimately leads to better architects and, hence, better architecture

The Licensing Body

- ❖ **Status:** Established by statute (law/decreed, etc.)
- ❖ **Mission:** Protecting the public.
- ❖ **Main Responsibilities:**
 - Maintain registration of qualified architects
 - Maintain Discipline
 - Oversee Code of conduct
- ❖ **Justification:** Consumer protection

⁵ In the Anglo-Saxon countries this is often carried out by the professional institute and the registration body, or independently by an organization made up of the two departments. In the “codified” countries, this task is the responsibility of one or other of the government departments.

5. Guidelines for Architecture Licensing Legislation

Licensing, also referred to as certification or registration, of architects, in most countries is governed by statute to ensure public safety. The International Union of Architects (UIA) provides extensive set of guidelines concerning standards of professionalism and licensing policy. The recommendations provided in this section are closely based on those of the UIA⁶.

Practice Regulation vs. Title Registration

“Practice regulation” i.e. regulation of the practice of a profession, so that only those individuals who meet specific legislated criteria (of education, training, and testing) may perform the services of a profession.

Practice regulation or licensure is costly to the state and consumers. It also limits entry into the profession. Therefore it is traditionally reserved for cases where the profession that, if unregulated pose a serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. In evaluating whether a profession should be regulated by practice regulation, most states apply a set of objective criteria, which include:

- ❖ Is the public being harmed by lack of regulation and can such harm be documented?
- ❖ Are there alternatives to state regulation?
- ❖ Is the public protected by existing laws, codes, or standards, and would strengthening such laws solve the problem?
- ❖ What is the cost to the state and the public of regulating the profession and will the public benefit from such regulation?

“Title registration” means individuals are still required to meet specific qualifications criteria, but only the use of the title is controlled. Individuals who do not have the title may continue to perform the services. Title registration should confer only a protected title. A title bill should not affect the scope of that group’s practice or permit those individuals to do anything they were not already legally entitled to do. (Note: Title registration is called “certification” in most states.

Title registration achieves the goal of enabling the public and consumers of services to differentiate, with minimal cost to the state and consumers, trained, qualified individuals from those who are untrained. Title registration does not prevent less qualified individuals from providing the services. With title registration, those individuals who do not meet the registration requirements are not deprived of their livelihoods.

Licensing Best Practices

Licensing is the legal recognition of an individual’s qualification allowing him or her to practice as an independent architect. Licensing is based on minimum standards of competency relative to education, experience, and examination to ensure that the public interest is served. Occupational licensure is an exercise of the state’s inherent police power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. Licensing regulations should address the following five concerns:

1. Minimize risk to consumer’s life, health, safety, and economic well-being by setting clear guidelines regarding the architect’s authority, responsibilities, liabilities and penalties.

⁶ UIA International Standards of Professionalism in the Practice of Architecture; UIA Professional Practice Program Joint Secretariat 1997, http://www.uia-architectes.org/image/PDF/UIA-Accord%20full_def.pdf

2. Set clear qualification standards to ensure all architects meet the high degree of skill, knowledge, and training practice of the occupation required.
3. Place checks and balances to safeguard the public from mistakes committed by individual architects.
4. Clearly distinguish the scope-of-practice of the occupation from other licensed and unlicensed occupations such as those in construction.
5. Protect the economic and cultural interests of the public.

Recommended Statutory Licensing Provisions

Qualification criteria for licensing should be objective and transparent. For the purpose of a licensing statute, care should be taken to assure that the statute appropriately reflects the International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice. In most countries it is not appropriate that statutes contain requirements for citizenship or residency to enter into the profession. Generally, architecture licensing applicants in most countries are required to complete the following:

- 1. University degree**

An applicant for licensing should be required to hold an accredited professional degree in architecture.

- 2. Practical Training**

An applicant for licensing should have practical training as set out in the UIA policy guidelines.

- 3. Examination**

To be licensed, the applicant should be required to pass examinations to demonstrate mastery of the architectural principles as well as building and safety codes.

- 4. Personal Interview**

Registration agencies may require a personal interview with a candidate for licensing.

- 5. Moral Character**

If the state wishes to empower its licensing agency with discretion to reject an applicant who is not of “good moral character,” the statute should specify only the aspects of the applicant’s background relevant to the investigation, such as:

- ❖ Conviction for commission of a felony;
- ❖ Misstatement or misrepresentation of fact by the applicant in connection with his or her application;
- ❖ Violation of any of the rules of conduct required of registrants and set forth in the statutes or regulations;
- ❖ Practicing architecture without being registered in violation of registration laws of the jurisdiction in which the practice took place.

If the applicant’s background includes any of the above, the licensing agency should be allowed to register the applicant on the basis of suitable evidence of reform.

- 6. Nonresident Applicant Seeking to Practice**

The statute should include provisions for licensing nonresident applicants. Reciprocal agreements with other countries may also be considered.

7. Nonresident Applicant Seeking a Commission

Provisions should also be made to grant permission to nonresident applicants seeking an architectural commission in a country in which he or she is not licensed.

8. Design Competition

Similar to above, provision should be made for architects seeking to receive commission by participating in design competitions locally but licensed in other countries.

Guidelines for Policy on Practical Experience

According to UIA guidelines, graduates of architecture should be required to have completed at least two years of acceptable internship prior to licensing to practice as an architect (but with the objective of working towards three years) while allowing flexibility for equivalency.

1. Period of practical experience (also referred to as training or internship)

The experience set out below should be demonstrated prior to applying for licensing and should be gained over a defined period defined. At least half of that period should occur following the basic academic prerequisites and in any case should not imply a reduction of the required academic period.

2. Objectives of the period of practical experience

The objectives of the period of practical experience (here referred to as internship) are:

- ❖ To provide interns with the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge and skill in the practice of architecture;
- ❖ To ensure the practices, activities, and experience of interns is recorded by a standard method;
- ❖ To enable interns to attain a broad range of experience in the practice of architecture.

3. Categories of experience

An intern should receive practical experience and training under the direction of an architect in at least half of the areas of experience nominated under each of the following four categories:

- ❖ Project and Office Management
- ❖ Design and Design Documentation
- ❖ Construction Documents
- ❖ Contract Administration

4. Supervisors

Interns should gain their experience under supervision. Supervisors are to be licensed architects in the jurisdiction in which the internship is undertaken, and will either be the employer or the architect to whom the intern reports during each recorded period of experience.

5. Record of practical experience

Interns should maintain a written record, in a standard form or a logbook, of all periods of training, experience, and supplementary education received during the internship period. It should describe the nature and duration of activities undertaken, and each of these should be signed by the supervisor architect as a true record of the experience. The standard form or logbook is to be presented to the licensing authority on request, as evidence that the required practical experience is being undertaken or has been completed.

6. Core knowledge and ability requirements

At the completion of the period of practical experience, the intern should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- ❖ The Practice of Architecture
- ❖ Project Management
- ❖ Pre-design and Site Analysis
- ❖ Project Services and Systems
- ❖ Schematic Design
- ❖ Design Development and Design Documentation
- ❖ Construction Documentation
- ❖ Contract Administration

6. Comparison of Architecture Legislations

Most countries regulate the profession through some combination of legislation and other regulatory means such as self-regulating industry association. Legislations vary from one country to another depending on local conditions such as the available skills, size and organization of the architects' community, the nature of existing laws governing design and construction, the nature of company laws etc. A comparison of architecture laws in various countries demonstrates the subject areas addressed most often⁷. The countries selected in this section are small or medium, non-federal countries.

ARCHITECTURE LEGISLATION CHARACTERISTICS	COUNTRIES					
	Singapore	UK	Croatia	Malaysia	New Zealand	Ireland
1) Legislation dedicated to regulation of Architects	•	•	•	•	•	
2) Establish a national board of architects	•	•	•	•	•	
a) Board/association formed voluntarily by architect community						•
b) Board of architects regulates architectural firms and architects	•	•	•	•	•	
c) Disciplinary acts to be undertaken by the board are specified	•	•	•	•	•	
d) Article to regulate fees for registration and other services provided by the Board	•	•	•		•	
e) The board reports are specified					•	
f) Provision for appeal against the board decisions					•	
3) Register of architects: Board of architects to maintain names of qualified architects	•	•	•	•	•	
a) Registration guidelines	•	•	•	•	•	
b) Provision for the board to remove names of architects from registry	•	•	•	•	•	
c) Provision for the board to re-instate architects in the registry	•			•	•	
d) Provision for the board to cancel an architect's practicing certificate	•		•	•	•	
e) Penalty for obtaining registration by false representation		•	•	•		
f) Update register annually		•				
g) Maintain a list of visiting architects		•		•		
4) Privileges of architects	•	•	•	•	•	
a) The title "Architect" is restricted to those qualified in education and experience	•	•	•	•	•	

⁷ Singapore Architects Act - <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/>

Croatia – http://www.arhitekti-hkaig.com/download/Act_on_the_Croatian_Chamber.doc

Malaysia - [http://www.lam.gov.my/download/newlamform/Architect-Acts\(2002\).pdf](http://www.lam.gov.my/download/newlamform/Architect-Acts(2002).pdf)

UK - <http://www.arb.org.uk/about/act/architects-act-1997.shtml>

New Zealand - <http://www.nzrab.org.nz/default.aspx?Page=127>

USAID Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP)

b) All architects must register with national board	•		•			
c) Architects may practice even if they are not registered – they cannot use the title “Architect”	•					
d) Unregistered architects can work on “minor building works”	•					
e) Penalties specified for those who misuse the “Architect” title		•	•		•	
f) Architects must obtain a practicing certificate each year	•					
g) Architects must purchase liability insurance	•		•			
5) Restrictions on corporations in relation to hiring architects	•					
a) Restrictions on companies’ ability to hire unregistered architects	•					
b) Fines specified for those who hire unregistered architects	•					
c) Regulations concerning membership and licensing of architectural firms (including board membership)	•					
d) Architectural firms required to maintain liability insurance	•					

Of the countries studied, Ireland exhibits the most relaxed legislative framework governing the architecture practice. The title, “Architect,” is not protected and practicing architects are not required by law to register; architects voluntarily register with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI), a state-recognized body⁸. However, Architects practicing in Ireland are bound by building codes and other design safety measures incorporated in building and construction laws.

⁸ Architects in Ireland, <http://www.archieuro.archiworld.it/archieugb/dbireland.html>

7. Recommended Steps to Establish a Licensing Process in Kosovo

Kosovo is currently in development phase and requires support in order to develop the private sector. Based on the analysis, guidelines and recommendations discussed above, the following steps are recommended. The steps can be coordinated with the Engineers Association. This will help ensure shared concerns such as construction codes are consistently developed.

1. Create an action plan to develop the professional licensing process.
2. Form a working group (WG) or transitional working group to execute the action plan. The WG should consist of:
 - a. government officials led by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning,
 - b. architects,
 - c. engineers (civil, mechanical, electrical, surveyors, geologist etc)
3. Analyze the best model to establish the licensing process
 - a. Agree on licensing process and procedures.
4. Develop roadmap including list of documentations to be developed
 - a. Agree on training manuals and programs that must be developed.
5. Draft, agree upon and approve acts/regulation for each profession separately for Architects.
6. Establish the Registration Boards to be managed by the Architecture Association.
7. Form the Professional Examination Board
 - a. It should consist of representatives from Professional Association and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
 - b. Review the Examination Commission membership
 - (i) It will depend on the type of exam (General vs. Professional)
 - (ii) It should not exceed more than 7 persons and not less than 3
 - (iii) Membership should be approved by the Minister after it is reviewed by the Association in coordination with government officials
 - c. The Professional Examination program should be developed jointly: Associations with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.
8. Restructure and modify the Architecture Association's bylaws according to international standards and in line with Kosovo legislation
 - a. This should be done in close cooperation with MESP and international support.
9. Announce the process and start with licensing.

8. References

To develop this report, publications from several associations were referred to:

- ❖ The American Institute of Architects - www.aia.org
- ❖ The international Union of Architects - www.uia-architectes.org
- ❖ The Royal Institute of British Architects - www.architecture.com
- ❖ Zbornico za arhitekturo in prostor Slovenije (ZAPS) - www.arhiforum.si
- ❖ The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards - www.ncarb.org
 - The Architect Registration Examination
- ❖ The Canadian Architects Associations
 - Alberta Association of Architects [AAA] - www.aaa.ab.ca
 - Architects' Association of New Brunswick [AANB] - www.aanb.org
 - Architects Association of Prince Edward Island [AAPEI] - www.aapei.com
 - Manitoba Association of Architects [MAA] - www.mbarchitects.org
 - Newfoundland Association of Architects [NAA] - www.newfoundlandarchitects.com
 - Nova Scotia Association of Architects [NSAA] - www.nsaa.ns.ca
 - Ontario Association of Architects [OAA] - www.oaa.on.ca
 - Ordre des architectes du Québec [OAQ] - www.oaq.com
 - Saskatchewan Association of Architects [SAA] - www.saskarchitects.com
 - The Northwest Territories Association of Architects [NWTAA] - www.nwtaa.ca
- ❖ Examination for Architects in Canada - www.cexac.ca
- ❖ German Chamber of Architects - www.bak.de/site/498/default.aspx
- ❖ European Commission directives for Professional qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC – www.ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm
- ❖ National Association of Norwegian Architects - www.arkitektur.no
- ❖ Architects' Council of Europe - www.ace-cae.org
- ❖ Architects & Europe - www.archieuro.archiworld.it/archieugb/default1.html